

Standard Operating Procedures for the Committee on Abuse Liability Testing (CALT)

Mission: The Committee on Abuse Liability Testing (CALT) serves as a conduit for communication between the CPDD Board of Directors and the Drug Evaluation Committee (DEC—see below for description). The CALT also provides a forum to promote discussion of issues related to abuse liability testing. In particular, the CALT seeks to encourage communication between members of government, industry and academia who require, can provide, or have an interest in abuse liability testing.

Relationship to The Drug Evaluation Committee (DEC): As noted above, a primary mission of the CALT is to serve as a liaison between the CPDD Board and the DEC. The DEC is a direct descendent of the pharmacology research program that began in 1930 in the Committee on Drug Addiction of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. It was this Committee on Drug Addiction that ultimately became the Committee, now College, on Problems of Drug Dependence. The DEC is a consortium of independent investigators (all CPDD members) who provide an array of preclinical abuse liability testing services to evaluate opioids, stimulants/depressants, and other compounds received from government, academic, and commercial laboratories. Testing is conducted using standardized procedures, which facilitates cross-comparison of results. Reports of these assessments traditionally are distributed at the annual meeting of the CPDD, but also are available to governmental agencies and are published as results warrant. Histories of DEC have been published by the former biological coordinator, Art Jacobson (NIDA Research Monograph, 174: 314-322, 1997), and by the current CALT chair, Steve Negus (Drug Alcohol Depend 82:182-183, 2006). Some results are available from DEC net site: www.cpdd.vcu.edu/DEC_ARCHIVES/dec.pdf

A liaison between the CPDD Board and the DEC is desirable because (a) CPDD provides budgetary support to the DEC for administrative expenses, and (b) the DEC publishes its results under the auspices of CPDD.

Committee Members: Members of the Committee and its Chair are appointed by the President-Elect of CPDD for 3-year terms. Terms begin and end immediately after the Annual Meeting. The Chair of the DEC is an ex-officio member. The Committee is composed of members from academia, industry, and governmental agencies (NIDA, DEA, FDA).

Meetings: The Committee usually meets jointly with the DEC at the Annual Meeting of CPDD and conducts business through e-mail otherwise. The Committee may also convene or support satellite meetings to address specific topics. Lastly, the CALT chair typically attends the annual DEC meeting, which is usually held in April or May to review data that will be included in that year's DEC report.

Reports: The Committee typically presents the following reports to the CPDD Board.

a) A report to the full Board at the Annual Meeting in June. This report is usually presented by the Committee Chair. This report includes budgetary details for any DEC requests for financial support from CPDD. The DEC budget requested of CPDD covers administrative and incidental costs required for preparation of the annual DEC reports. The costs of the research are covered through grants and contracts to the participating laboratories.

b) A report is prepared for the mid-year meeting of the Board of Directors, which is usually held in December or January.

c) Note that the DEC itself prepares reports of its evaluations for distribution at the annual meeting and for publication in the Proceedings. The CALT may help to review these reports; however, the CALT is not responsible for preparing the DEC reports.